

## MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

### Seen In Auction – Transatlantic Flight Cover - Bulletin 348/6

**Rudy Roy** writes offering a possible correct interpretation of the routing of the airmail cover noted on Bulletin 348 page 6 in the **SEEN IN AUCTION** item by **Michael Miller**.

In March 1941 PANAM was successfully operating trans- Atlantic and trans-Pacific flights. The handwritten notation on the lower left of the cover - "Via North Atlantic and Pan Pacific Service" indicates that this cover was to be transported via the regularly scheduled PANAM flights.

From June 1940 until 7 Dec 1941 the airmail rate from Great Britain to New Zealand - by air across the Atlantic, by air across the US, and by air to New Zealand was 4/ 6d per half ounce. This cover - with 18/- - weighed up to 2 ounces. The Imperial Airways route across the Mediterranean had been severed in June 1940 with France's collapse and Italy's entrance into the war, and the Horseshoe Route down through Africa was not yet operational.

The route across the Atlantic (North Atlantic) was the US FAM-18 route from Southampton via Foynes, Ireland, Botwood, Newfoundland, Shediac, New Brunswick, to New York. From New York the cover would have flown via US domestic airline to either San Francisco or Los Angeles, California. There it would have been placed on the Pacific (Pan Pacific) US FAM-19 route to Auckland, NZ via Honolulu, Hawaii, Canton Island, and Noumea, New Caledonia.

This cover is what airmail collectors would describe as a "two ocean cover" and that is probably why it realized a high price at auction.

References: *Air Mail Operations During World War II*,  
by Thomas Boyle, 1998,  
published by the American Air Mail Society

*American Air Mail Catalogue, Vol III, 6th edition, 2003*